



PATENT
649-SP487P

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Yasuyuki TANAKA et al.

GROUP 1500

SERIAL NO.: 08/448,990

GROUP: 1505

FILED: May 24, 1995

EXAMINER: Zitomer, F.

FOR: MODIFIED NATURAL RUBBER

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT

#3
6/6/96

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 15, 1996

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Office Action dated April 16, 1996, the following remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

REMARKS

The Examiner has made a requirement for restriction between claims 1-8, drawn to a modified natural rubber, claim 9, drawn to a process of graft polymerizing natural rubber, and claim 10, drawn to a process of epoxidizing natural rubber. This requirement for restriction is respectfully traversed.

Because of the very close interrelationship between the claims of the present application, it is believed that all of the claims are properly examinable in the same application as being part of a single invention. However, in order to comply with the Examiner's requirement, the Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute claims 1-8 in the present application, but specifically reserve the right

to file divisional applications directed to non-elected claims 9 and 10 at a later date, if so desired.

The Examiner has made a further requirement for an election of species between the specific monomers noted in claim 6 (Species 1), and the epoxidation of claims 7 and 8 (Species 2). Here again, the Examiner's requirement for an election of species is respectfully traversed for the same reasons given hereinabove. However, in order to comply with the Examiner's requirement, the Applicants elect to prosecute the specific monomer methyl methacrylate as recited in claim 6, and furthermore, the Applicants elect performic acid as the peracid recited in claims 7 and 8.

Accordingly, in view of the above remarks, reconsideration of the requirement for restriction and the requirement for an election of species and action on the merits of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

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